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3. A remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting that the document has been set to the reader;

displaying, on the external device, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection in the detecting step;

generating a command of the remotely controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation of the virtual control panel; and

supplying the generated command to the remotely controllable apparatus.

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4. (Amended) A remote control system comprising:

a remotely controllable apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from said control panel and/or an externally supplied command;

an information processing apparatus capable of supplying a command to said remotely controllable apparatus; and

a display unit and input device connected to said information processing apparatus;

wherein said information processing apparatus includes:

detecting means for detecting that the document has been set to said reader;

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display means for displaying, on said display unit, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection by said detecting means;

discriminating means for establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to said remotely controllable apparatus, and an operation performed on said virtual control panel; and

communication means for supplying said remotely controllable apparatus with the command corresponding to the operation performed on said virtual control panel.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the operation is designation of a position.

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6. The system according to claim 4, wherein said display means displays said virtual control panel based upon control-panel information obtained from said remotely controllable apparatus.

7. The system according to claim 4, wherein said display means displays said virtual control panel based upon control-panel information possessed by said information processing apparatus.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the control-panel information is read out of a recording medium on which it has been recorded in advance and is stored in non-volatile storage means utilizable by said information processing apparatus.

9. The system according to claim 4, wherein said remotely controllable apparatus is an image forming apparatus.

10. The system according to claim 4, wherein said remotely controllable apparatus comprises:

document sensing means for sensing whether or not a document is present in said reader;

wherein when said reader senses that a document is present in said reader, said detecting means detects an output from said document sensing means and said display means displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of said control panel.

11. The system according to claim 4, further comprising an image input device connected to said information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying said information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read, said image input device having document sensing means for sensing whether or not the document is present;

wherein when said document sensing means senses that the document is present, said display means displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel.

12. The system according to claim 4, wherein configuration of said virtual control panel is capable of being altered.

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13. A storage medium storing program code of a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command, comprising:

program code for detecting that the document has been set to the reader;

program code for displaying, on the external device, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection of the document;

program code for generating a command of the remotely controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation on the virtual control panel; and

program code for supplying the generated command to said remotely controllable apparatus.

15. The system according to claim 4, wherein said display means displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel corresponding to prescribed data that has been entered.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said prescribed data is authorization data concerning each user who utilizes said remote control system.

17. An information processing apparatus in a data processing system which includes: a data processing apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance

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with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command; the information processing apparatus, which is capable of supplying a command to the data processing apparatus; a display unit and input device connected to the information processing apparatus; and an image input device connected to the information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying the information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read; the information processing apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting that a document has been set to the reader;

display means for displaying, on the display unit, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection of said detecting means;

discriminating means for establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to the data processing apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel; and

communication means for supplying the data processing apparatus with the command corresponding to the operation performed on the virtual control panel.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display means displays, on the display unit, the virtual control panel corresponding to prescribed data that has been entered.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said prescribed data is authorization data concerning each user who utilizes said data processing system.

20. A method of controlling an information processing apparatus in a data processing system which includes: a data processing apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command; the information processing apparatus, which is capable of supplying a command to the data processing apparatus; a display unit and input device connected to the information processing apparatus; and an image input device connected to the information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying the information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read; said method comprising the steps of:

detecting that a document has been set to said reader;

displaying, on the display unit, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection in the detecting step;

a discriminating step of establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to the data processing apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel; and

a communication step of supplying said data processing apparatus with the command corresponding to the operation performed on said virtual control panel.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said display step displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel corresponding to prescribed data that has been entered.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said prescribed data is authorization data concerning each user who utilizes said data processing system.

23. A storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling an information processing apparatus in a data processing system which includes: a data processing apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command; the information processing apparatus, which is capable of supplying a command to the data processing apparatus; a display unit and input device connected to the information processing apparatus; and an image input device connected to the information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying the information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read; comprising:

program code for detecting that the document has been set to said reader;

program code for displaying, on the display unit, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection of the document;

program code for establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to said data processing apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel; and

program code for supplying said data processing apparatus with the command corresponding to the operation performed on said virtual control panel.

Please add new claims 24 and 25 as follows:

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-- 24. A control method of an information processing terminal connected to an image reading device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal indicating that a document has been set to the image reading device;

displaying a control panel for controlling the image reading device in response to receiving the signal in said receiving step; and

transmitting a command for instructing to the image reading device based on manipulation of the displayed control panel.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein said displaying step displays the control panel without further manipulation after said receiving step receives the signal. --

REMARKS

Claims 3-13 and 15-25 are presented for consideration, with claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 being independent.

An editorial change has been made to claim 4. In addition, claims 24 and 25 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

Claims 3-13 and 15-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Webb et al. '135 in view of Ouchi '096. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable